

Good Neighbor Environmental Board **ROUND-UP**

Board and environmental news along the U.S.-Mexico border

Volume 3, Number 9
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Good Neighbor Board News

*from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
February 2003 Round-Up*

Upcoming 2003 Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings

April 9-10 Deming, New Mexico
July 30-31 Del Rio, Texas
October 22-23 San Diego, California

EPA Administrator Whitman Appoints Five New Members, Re-Appoints Two; Terms of Three Others End

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman has appointed five new members to the Board: Amanda Aguirre of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Foundation, Yuma, Arizona; Dora Alcala, Mayor of Del Rio, Texas; Paul Ganster, Director for Regional Studies of the Californias at San Diego University; Kenneth Ramirez, Partner at Bracewell & Patterson, Austin, Texas; and Douglas Smith Director of Corporate Environment, Safety, and Health for Sony Electronics, San Diego. In addition, Administrator Whitman re-appointed two members for an additional two-year term: Diana Borja, Director of Border Affairs for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ); and Jerry Paz Vice-President of Molzen-Corbin & Associates, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Besides these changes, the terms of three members have ended: Irasema Coronado, Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at El Paso; Judith Espinosa, Director of the ATR Institute at the University of New Mexico; and Susan Kunz, Tribal Consultant, Tucson, Arizona.

We welcome the new members as well as those re-appointed. We also extend our best wishes and thanks to those who have completed their terms; their valued contributions to the Board's work are greatly appreciated.

Board Members Brave Snowstorms, Use Teleconference Lines, to Conduct Strategic Planning Session

With snowstorms blanketing Washington, D.C. on the eve of the Board's Strategic Planning Session scheduled for February 18th and 19th, Members went to extra lengths to ensure that the meeting still took place and was productive. A small number of Members managed to overcome travel barriers to actually be at the table, while a number of others participated by telephone. The long-awaited Border Forecast Session expert panels had to be canceled, but the Strategic Planning Session itself and the Business Meeting went on as planned.

One of the Session's highlights was a twenty-minute visit from EPA Administrator Whitman, who

dropped by on the second morning to thank the Board for its good work and to say she looked forward to seeing the next report. Other achievements: a theme was selected for the Seventh Report, which is the connection between U.S.-Mexico border environmental conditions and the health of the region's children; the Board decided to step up its efforts to build strong dialogue with its Mexican counterpart group, the Consejo; and revisions were suggested for the Board's Vision, Goals, and Activities statements, and will be circulated for comment.

Board DFO to Retain Position, Joined by Associate DFO

The EPA Office of Cooperative Environmental Management (OCEM) at headquarters, in partnership with the EPA Region 9 Office in San Francisco, have determined that Elaine Koerner, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Board, will continue to serve in that same position from her new location in the EPA Region 9 Office. In addition, OCEM has hired Oscar Carrillo, formerly a CEC specialist in the Agency's Office of International Affairs, to devote a portion of his time to serve as Associate DFO for the Board as well as carry out other committee management responsibilities.

Border Region & National News

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****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

BECC - The following Step 1 applications were received during January: water and wastewater collection, Socorro, TX; tire recycling project, San Benito, TX; South Texas Stream Power Plant Project, Laredo, TX; WWTP construction for municipal slaughterhouse, Ciudad Juarez, Chih.; energy generation from solid waste landfill generated gases, Ciudad Juarez, Chih.; and improvements to the solid waste facilities, Ciudad Juarez, Chih. Technical assistance was requested by Bisbee for construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. In addition, two projects will be considered for certification at BECC's upcoming Board meeting on April 3rd in El Paso: street paving and air quality project for the State of Baja California; and water and wastewater improvements for la Feria, Texas.

Border 2012 Program - The signing ceremony for the Border 2012 Program has been scheduled for April 4th in Tijuana, B.C.

Center for Disease Control, HHS - CDC has released its second "National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals." The Center says its report is the most extensive assessment ever of the U.S. population's exposure to environmental chemicals. One of its findings is that exposure of children to lead-contaminated dust remains a serious public health concern. See www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/.

Children's Health - Trends - EPA has issued its second report on trends in protecting children's health; it includes information on environmental contaminant levels in air, water, food, and soil, and discusses childhood illnesses that may be influenced by exposure to environmental contaminants. See www.epa.gov/envirohealth/children.

Research - EPA and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences are requesting applications to fund research centers on children's health and the environment. Deadline: May 16, 2003. See http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/current/2003_child_health.html.

IBWC - The U.S. section of the IBWC is inviting interested community members to apply to join the Board of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum. Deadline is March 26. Contact: sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov. The U.S. section also has announced the selection of ten people to serve as inaugural Board members of the Colorado

River Citizens' Forum; in the interest of increasing representation from Imperial County, applications from residents of that county will be accepted through March 26.

NADBank - Air quality loan - NADBank has approved its first loan for an air quality project under its expanded mandate. The loan will fund a Mexican road paving project to improve air quality in the sister cities of Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. See www.nadb.org . WCIF guidelines - NADBank has announced final guidelines for the Water Conservation Investment Fund (WCIF). To have a project considered, a Step I application must be submitted to BECC by March 10th. See website.

Power Plants - EPA has extended the public comment period on a proposed rule under its New Source Review Program. The rule would provide a regulatory definition of "routine maintenance, repair and replacement." Five public meetings will take place across the country. Deadline under the extended comment period will be May 2, 2003. See www.epa.gov/nsr/

Used Tires - EPA Region 9 officials are spearheading a binational project to monitor piles of discarded used tires along the border. The San Luis Rio Colorado/Yuma County area is being used as the initial test site.

Events Calendar

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*Please check a primary source for accuracy. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered. Please notify Editor of changes. ****

Mar 3-5	U.S.-Mexico Border Counties Coalition meeting, Washington, D.C.
Mar 4-5	International Forum on Regional Haze, hosted by Central Regional Air Planning Association, El Paso, Texas. www.cenrap.org/meetings
Mar 25-26	Second North American Symposium on Assessing Environmental Effects of Trade, sponsored by SEC and UNP., Mexico City.
Mar 26	U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce meeting, Washington, D.C.
Mar 31-Apr 2	2003 Texas Solid Waste Association of North America Annual Conference, El Paso, TX. See www.SWANA.org .
Apr 1-3	USGS Conference on Natural Science and Public Health, Reston, VA.
Apr 3	BECC Board meeting, El Paso, TX.
APR 9-10	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEMING, N.M.
Apr 9-12	Association for Borderland Studies annual meeting, Las Vegas, NEV.
Apr 28-30	Border Institute V; State of the Border Environment and Health of Its Peoples: Indicators of Progress, 1990-2020, Rio Rico, AZ. www.scerp.org
May 7-8	CEC: National Advisory Committee (NAC)/Government Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Representative meeting, Washington, D.C.
May 15-17	Encuentro Fronterizo Conference, Tijuana, Baja California. www.encuentrofronterizo.org
May 27-30	61 st U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association Annual Mtg., San Diego, CA. See www.usmbha.org
June 24-25	CEC Annual Council Session, Washington, D.C.
July 30-31	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, DEL RIO, TX.
July 30 - Aug 1	Conference: Water Security in the 21 st Century, Washington, D.C. Contact: mskerly@siu.edu
Aug 6-8	Border Governors Conference, Chihuahua, Chih., MX. www.bordergovernors.com
Oct 22-23	GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING, SAN DIEGO, CA

Oct 26-29 2003 Texas Recycling Summit, Galveston Island, Texas. www.recycletx.com
Dec 3-4 CDC: 6th National Environmental Health Conference, Atlanta, GA.

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